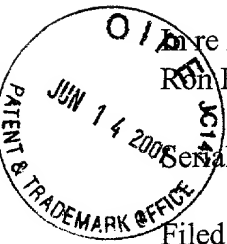


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Original Application of )  
Ron PINKUS )  
Serial No. 09/740,808 ) Atty. Dkt. No.: 111039-00110  
Filed: December 21, 2000 ) GAU: 2163  
For: AUTOMATIC PAYMENT METHOD ) Examiner: Unassigned  
USING RF ID TAGS )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted. Please enter the following amendments before examination of the subject application:

**IN THE DRAWINGS:**

Please refer to the concurrently-filed Request For Approval of Drawings Changes.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please add the following new claims:

2. A system for conducting cashless business transactions comprising:  
  
a plurality of dispensers, each dispenser being associated with at least one antenna;  
  
a controller for receiving a detection notification from a first antenna, the first antenna being associated with a first dispenser and corresponding to a first detector;  
  
a tag interrogator connected to the at least one antenna for transmitting an interrogation signal to a tag through the first antenna and for receiving information from the tag after the first antenna is activated; and

a point of sale device for receiving the information from the tag interrogator and for activating the first dispenser.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the information comprises a unique customer identification number.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein the information comprises customer frequent purchase information.

5. The system of claim 2, wherein the controller is connected to the point of sale device.

6. The system of claim 2, further comprising:  
a network host for receiving the information from the point of sale device, linking the information to a customer's account, and authorizing a transaction.

7. The system of claim 2, wherein the point of sale device activates the first dispenser after a transaction has been authorized.

8. The system of claim 2, wherein a transaction is not authorized until a customer enters a personal identification number in the point of sale device.

9. The system of claim 2, wherein the tag is a sticker radio frequency identification tag.

10. The system of claim 2, wherein before activating the first dispenser the point of sale device validates the tag and offers a customer an option to pay through an account associated with the customer.

11. A method for validating a tag, comprising:

receiving tag write data from a point of sale device after a tag detection start message has been sent to the point of sale device; and  
writing the tag write data into the tag.

#### **REMARKS**

Favorable consideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments. Claims 2-11 have been added to better define the invention. Claims 1-11 are pending in the application.

Entry of this Amendment and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited. In the event there are any questions relating to this Amendment or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited. Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 23-2185(111039-00110).

In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this response, Applicant hereby petitions under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to

render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron PINKUS

Date: June 14, 2001

By: 

Michael C. Greenbaum

Registration No. 28,419

Attorney for Applicant